

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please **add** the following **new** paragraph at page 1, line 3:

-- This application claims the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/EP03/50653, filed September 24, 2003, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on April 8, 2004 in English and which claims the benefit of European patent application No. 02447182.3, filed September 25, 2002.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --**

Please **add** the following **new** paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 1, line 27:

**-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 1 line 29 with the following **rewritten** paragraph:

-- The invention concerns a method for routing data packets in a routing device connecting a first network and a second network, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a frame from a device connected to the first network;
- (b) forwarding the frame to an internal bridge module of the device;
- (c) checking whether the frame contains a multicast group management message and in the affirmative, creating a new frame comprising as destination address the destination address of an internal multicast group management module and as payload at least the multicast management data of the received frame; and
- (d) forwarding this new frame to the internal bridge function. --

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 24 with the following **rewritten** paragraph:

-- Another object of the invention is a routing device for connecting a first and a second network, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

(a) a switch for receiving frames from the first network;

(b) an internal bridge function for forwarding frames to appropriate modules, said bridge function being connected to the switch;

(c) a multicast group management module for maintaining up to date multicast group information based on frames received on the first network, said multicast group management module being connected to the bridge function for receiving selected frames there from;

wherein the switch is adapted to determine whether a received frame comprises a multicast group management message, and in the affirmative, providing a new frame comprising multicast group management information extracted from the original frame, wherein the second frame has a destination address equal to the address of the multicast group management module, and for delivering the new frame to the bridge function. --

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 3 line 4 with the following **rewritten** paragraph:

-- Another object of the invention is a switch circuit for use in a device as defined above, said circuit comprising multiple input ports, ~~characterized in that it is~~ said circuit being adapted to determine whether a received frame comprises a multicast group management message, and in the affirmative, providing a new frame comprising multicast group management information extracted from the original frame, wherein the second frame has a destination address equal to the address of the multicast group management module, and for forwarding the new frame to the bridge function.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --**

Please **add** the following **new** paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 3, line 25:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --